surprising. Johnny had low expectations, for academics.

Did anything good come out of Pork University, Clownsview?

BELA, MAX, STATE CAPITALISTS on HEARSE TV - it was like inviting a few ***GOOD DARKIES*** to the ***BALL***, to ***dance*** and ***sing***, so long as nobody mentioned ***SLAVERY*** at that ***BIG HOUSE*** down ***THING STREET***....

Meanwhile, besides her career ambition to replace Elvira on FREAK NIGHT, Mitzi wanted to star in The Hearse's made-for-TV spectacular, Young Morgie, Baby Eater. What he did with his unborn brother, Big Sister's Little Bun. How he soliloquized him every evening in the sterilizer, which he kept under the urinal on a lovely little Duncan Phyfe table, decorated with fat Cupids. He was his brother's keeper all right. Little Bun Morgenthaler, dead at minus 1 (approx.). But only in the flesh....

Mitzi kept thinking about Young Morgie. Great guy....

Butch said he'd been careful, but she was having dizzy spells and vomiting....

Getting knocked up would be a disaster.... She'd never get that spot hosting Freak Night for Citizen Hearse....

Titles like A Most Contagious Game, End of the Line, Bed of Hate. They still had that copy of Radcliffe Hall's The Well of Loneliness. A couple of women, one with purple-dyed hair, looked at it, but the one with plain blond hair dismissed it. It was a period piece. The cover showed two very unhappy-looking women with short hair. Very serious....

A Mickey Mouse watch....

Philip K. Dick....

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There were the stories from the Buffalo radio station. It was public radio, so of course they tended to be bad. The night-time lows used to be daytime highs. The lows were in the 80s, the highs in the 100s. There were storm warnings every day, but it never rained. This continued for months.

The PROMISED LAND was in drought. Half the wheat and corn were lost. Major U.S. rivers were shrunken, and tepid as bath-water. Johnny expected food prices to rise dramatically in the fall.

What did HE know? Food prices were already so artificially rigged it wouldn't make any difference if 90% of the harvest got ploughed back into the ground. Losers like Johnny only got 5% anyway, after the ethanol plants, who got theirs practically FREE. If the corn was even slightly more expensive, the ethanol plants wouldn't take it, and there'd be more for Johnny....

Meanwhile young people couldn't find work, and old people couldn't afford to retire.

If one quit, one would never find another job. Nobody could afford to retire before he was eighty. At least at 80 there wasn't time to exhaust one's savings.